

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01809 301504Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00  
/053 W

-----302248Z 032897 /62 S

R 301435Z DEC 76  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8589  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USMISSION USUN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1809

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO, PLO  
SUBJECT: WEST BANK PARTICIPATION AT PALESTINIAN NATIONAL  
COUNCIL

REFS: (A) DAMASCUS DSKUEYV (B') JERUSALEM 1609; (C)  
TA 241727

1. SUMMARY. WEST BANK PALESTINIANS HAVE ADOPTED PASSIVE STAND  
ON QUESTION OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL  
(PNC). THEY WILL GO ONLY IF INVITED BY THE PLO AND ONLY IF  
ALLOWED BY THE GOI. IF WEST BANK DELEGATES DID PARTICIPATE,  
THEY WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT ARAFAT AND MODERATE POLICES. END  
SUMMARY.

2. PER PARA 16 REF A, POST HAS POLLED MAJOR POLITICAL LEADERS  
(MAYORS OF TULKARM, RAMALLAH, BETHLEHEM, HALHUL, HEBRON AND  
EDITOR OF ASHA'AB) ON QUESTION OF WEST BANK PARTICIPATION IN UP-  
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COMING PNC. ALTHOUGH ALMOST ALL INDICATED A DESIRE TO ATTEND,  
NONE WANTED TO PRE-EMPT THE PLO'S PREROGATIVE OF NAMING THE DELE-  
GATES. INVITATIONS FOR THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING IN 1974 CAME BY  
INTERNATIONAL MAIL WITH A POSTMARK FROM AN EASTERN EUROPEAN  
COUNTRY, WE WERE TOLD. AS REGARDS INVITATIONS FOR THE NEXT ONE,  
OUR CONTACTS SEEMED TO HAVE ONLY A SKETCHLY KNOWLEDGE OF HOW PLO

POLITICAL MACHINERY WORKS. THOSE WHO WERE WILLING TO SPECULATE  
THOUGHT SELECTION WOULD BE MADE BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHERE, SOME  
THOUGHT, SARG MIGHT USE ITS INFLUENCE TO STACK THE DECK IN ITS  
FAVOR. NO PERCEPTIBLE SUPPORT FOR AJLOUNI PLAN (REF B) TO  
ALLOW WEST BANKERS TO DETERMINE FOR THEMSELVES WHO WOULD REPRESENT THEM. HOWEVER, TWO MAYORS SAID THEY KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE  
24 MAYORS ELECTED IN APRIL, 1976, WOULD BE DESIGNATED DELEGATES.

3. QUESTION OF SELECTION MAY BE MOOTED BY GOI VETO.  
MA'ARIV CITES A SENIOR GOI SECURITY OFFICER THAT THE MILGOV  
WILL NOT PERMIT WB MAYORS TO TRAVEL TO THE PNC IN CAIRO.  
(REF C). THE MAYORS SAY THEY WILL NOT CHALLENGE THIS  
PROHIBITION, BUT HEBRON'S QAWASMI ASKED CONGEN OFFICERS  
DEC 30 TO BRING USG PRESSURE TO BEAR ON GOI TO ALLOW WB  
PARTICIPATION. FURTHERMORE, ASH'AB'S EDITOR FEARS THAT GOJ,  
TOO, WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMAND AN ACCOUNTING AS THE  
WEST BANKERS PASSED THROUGH AMMAN.

4. IF WB POLITICIANS WERE TO PARTICIPATE, MOST INDICATED THEY  
WOULD SUPPORT MODERATE POLICIES AND THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP  
OF ARAFAT. A WEST BANK/GAZA STATE HAS AN OBVIOUS  
ATTRACTION FOR THEM, AND THEY SPEAK OF NEED TO INJECT  
REALISM INTO PLO DELIBERATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY  
DEMAND THAT A PEACE SETTLEMENT INCLUDE, IN ADDITION TO COMPLETE  
WITHDRAWAL, RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS FROM WITHIN  
ISRAEL PROPER. MOST INTERPRET THESE RIGHTS TO MEAN THE RIGHT  
TO RETURN TO THEIR LANDS AND HOMES AND LIVE THERE,  
ALBEIT UNDER THE GOI.  
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## Message Attributes

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